

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 31st May 2006

Report Title Review of the Area Community Education Councils and future funding arrangements

Summary This report seeks the views of the Area Committee on the attached draft report seeking Cabinet approval for the future arrangements for the funds which ACECs allocated. This is related to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

- Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006
- Strategic Review of Services for Young People, Cabinet report 5th May 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members Cllr Richard Grant – “the Area Committee need to examine this carefully – thinking about the implications for learning activities in their communities”
Cllr Mick Jones
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – “I am happy for the report to go to the Area Committee for discussion”

- Cabinet Member Cllr Colin Hayfield
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe – *“support the report for consideration of the Area Committee”*
Cllr Peter Fowler – *“welcome consideration and comments from the Area Committee”*
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould / Richard Freeth – *“fine”*
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet 27th June 2006
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 31st May 2006

**Review of the Area Community Education Councils
and future funding arrangements**

**Joint Report of the Strategic Directors for Children,
Young People & Families and Performance & Development**

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Area Committee considers any recommendations it wishes to make to the Cabinet on future funding arrangements following the review of the Area Community Education Councils.
- (2) That the Area Committee recommends to Cabinet that the funds referred to in para. 2.4 of the attached draft Cabinet paper (£32,000) be dispersed and promoted through the Community Development Fund with effect from April 2007, the resource to be allocated across the Area Committees using the formula of the Community Development Fund.

Background

1. Area Community Education Councils (ACECs) were formed in 1992 against a background of the Authority being an enabler and not just a provider of services. All Youth Service funding other than that required to keep premises open (rates, fuels, etc.) and full-time staff (15 in total) were devolved to ACECs. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Authority began to reflate the Youth Service and it grew in its capacity to deliver work. This coincided with an increase of resources available to the voluntary sector through Area Committees and lottery funding. ACECs have since then been funding the priority bids of the Youth Service to support direct delivery, voluntary organisations to deliver youth services, as well as over 19s and community use of schools.
2. Following the Strategic Review of Services for Young People, the Adult Learning Service and Youth Service, which were part of the Community Education Service, have been operating as discrete services since March 2005. However from April 2006 Adult Learning transferred to the Adult, Health and Community Directorate and the Youth Service is now part of the Services for Young People Division. The Strategic Review's Implementation Plan also identified the need to keep ACECs until March 2006 as a transitional arrangement.

3. Attached as **Appendix A** is a draft Cabinet report outlining the proposal for the transfer of part of the funds currently dispersed through ACECs to Area Committees in line with the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, in order to ensure that community organisations can continue to access grants. The Area Committee is asked to consider the draft report and any comments will be incorporated in the report for Cabinet.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of Performance
and Development

22 Northgate Street
Warwick

17th May 2006

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Appendix A

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee

The Cabinet

Date of Committee

27th June 2006

Report Title

Review of the Area Community Education Councils and future funding arrangements

Summary

This report seeks approval for the future arrangements for the funds which ACECs allocated. This is related to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.

For further information please contact:

Elizabeth Featherstone
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]

No

Background papers

- Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006
- Strategic Review of Services for Young People, Cabinet report 5th May 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

All five Area Committees, May 2006

Local Member(s)

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Other Elected Members

C&YP O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy
Cllr Richard Grant
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell

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- Cabinet Member Cllr Colin Hayfield
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould / Richard Freeth
- Finance David Clarke, Director of Resources
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

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Appendix A

The Cabinet – 27th June 2006

Review of the Area Community Education Councils and future funding arrangements

Joint Report of the Strategic Directors for Children, Young People & Families and Performance & Development

Recommendation:

That the proposed funding arrangements following the review of the Area Community Education Councils be approved with effect from April 2007.

1. Introduction and context

- 1.1 Area Community Education Councils (ACECs) were formed in 1992 against a background of the Authority being an enabler and not just a provider of services. All Youth Service funding other than that required to keep premises open (rates, fuels, etc.) and full-time staff (15 in total) were devolved to ACECs. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Authority began to reflate the Youth Service and it also became a provider as well as an enabler. This also coincided with a government move towards lifelong learning and an increase of resources through the Standards Fund.
- 1.2 The priority growth area required by Members was full-time staff, and the Youth Service grew in its capacity to deliver work. This coincided with an increase of resources available to the voluntary sector through Area Committees and lottery funding. ACECs have since then been funding the priority bids of the Youth Service to support direct delivery, voluntary organisations to deliver youth services, as well as over 19s and community use of schools.
- 1.3 The establishment in April 2006 of a new Directorate for Children, Young People and Families means that a number of services are reorganising. Through the Strategic Review of Services for Young People, the Adult Learning Service and Youth Service, which were part of the Community Education Service, have been operating as discrete services since March 2005. However from April 2006 Adult Learning transferred to the Adult, Health and Community Directorate and the Youth Service is now part of the Services for Young People Division.

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The Implementation Plan for the Strategic Review of Services for Young People identified the need to keep ACECs until March 2006 as a transitional arrangement. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the transfer of part of the funds currently dispersed through ACECs to Area Committees in line with the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, in order to ensure that community organisations can continue to access grants.

- 1.4 Cabinet decided that this issue should be taken forward through the governance paper on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. The governance paper covers a range of issues which are a result of the new Children, Young People and Families Directorate with its focus on integrated services to children and young people, and the major transformation of services this will require.

The governance issues are currently the subject of consultation with external organisations and the issues will be discussed at the Partnership Board in May 2006.

2. Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

- 2.1 The County Council has been engaged in a thorough and wholesale review of its relations with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). A strategy to guide the Council's relationship with the sector between 2006/11 was considered by Cabinet on 5th May.

The Strategy covers a range of issues including :

- Contracting for Service delivery
- Supporting the voluntary sector infrastructure
- Developing effective communication and consultation
- Working together to ensure good governance.

- 2.2 Under the governance strand, it is suggested that the role of Area Committees as the focal point for allocating small grants should be enhanced. Area Committees are already responsible for allocating the Community Development Fund, the Social Inclusion Fund and the Well-being Fund. Other public bodies (particularly the district councils) also have local funds available for community benefit and it is sensible to avoid duplication and to focus this funding in line with community priorities as defined in Area Business Plans and Community Strategies.

- 2.3 Local arrangements have been developed to do this. These tend to take the form of a group of local officers and voluntary sector representatives screening and evaluating bids for grants and projects and suggesting which might be the most appropriate funding source. In respect of County Council funding, this might then go forward to a sub-committee of the Area Committee for further consideration or direct to the Committee. The VCS Strategy suggests that these arrangements should be developed further in accordance with local wishes and it would seem appropriate for the ACEC funding to be included within these arrangements.

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- 2.4 The alternative would be to develop specific arrangements solely for the purpose of dispersing ACEC funding. The total amount of ACEC funding in 2005/06 was £319,000. Of this, £30,000 will be reserved for the extended community use of schools and £257,000 will be allocated direct to voluntary youth service organisations and will form part of the budget of the Children, Young People and Families Directorate. This leaves about £32,000 available for grants to community groups providing services to adults, which is the amount that would remain with ACECs if the current arrangements were to continue. At an average of £6,000 per area (ranging from less than £250 in two areas to a maximum of £13,000) this would not appear to justify the continuation of the existing arrangements or the establishment of new separate arrangements to replace them.
- 2.5 It is therefore suggested that through the implementation of the VCS Strategy the £32,000 available for grants to adult community organisations should be transferred to Area Committees to be allocated through the local arrangements established for co-ordinating local grants. It is also suggested that it would be best placed in and promoted through the Community Development Fund using the usual formula for its allocation across the Area Committees with effect from April 2007.

3. Views of the Area Committees

4. Conclusion

MARION DAVIS
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Young People and Families

DAVID CARTER
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22 Northgate Street
Warwick

June 2006